

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for granting access to a protected area of a storage device from a calling process, comprising the steps of:

~~causing a calling process desiring to gain access to the protected area to locate locating an interface that permits access to the protected area;~~

~~causing the calling process to use using the interface to create a created trusted relationship between the a calling process and a system firmware;~~

~~once the trusted relationship has been established, allowing the calling process to retrieve retrieving a directory of service areas in the protected area for the calling process with the created trusted relationship;~~

~~allowing access to accessing one or more service areas in the protected area;~~

~~processing data contained in the one or more service areas; and~~

~~closing the protected area when processing of data in the one or more service areas is complete.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the using the interface to create a created trusted relationship comprises [[the]] steps of:

~~sending a public key to the system firmware;~~

~~modifying the public key using a private key using the system firmware;~~

~~causing the calling process to validate validating the modified key;~~

~~causing using the system firmware to issue a public key to the calling process;~~

~~modifying the public key using the private key using the calling process; and~~

~~causing using the system firmware to validate the new key ;and~~

~~if the key is not validated, denying access to the protected area; and~~

~~if the key is validated, granting access to the protected area.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as part of the a retrieve directory request; and

allowing the calling process to locate the locating a desired service area using the an information returned by the retrieve directory request.

4. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of a retrieve directory request; and

if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move moving a SETMAX boundary to allow access to the a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.

5. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of allowing access to accessing the one or more service areas comprises the steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of an open service area with a password request; and

if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move moving a SETMAX boundary to allow access to the a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.

6. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of using the interface to create a created trusted relationship further comprises moving a SETMAX address from an initial boundary,

and further wherein the step of closing the protected area further comprises the step of: once the calling process has completed its activities in the protected area, returning the SETMAX address to its original the initial boundary using a close SETMAX command.

7-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for granting access to a protected area of a storage device from a calling process, comprising the steps of:

causing a calling process desiring to gain access to the protected area to locate locating an interface that permits access to the protected area;

causing the calling process to use using the interface to create a created trusted relationship between the calling process and a system firmware;

once the trusted relationship has been established, manipulating one or more PARTIES (Protected Area Run-Time Interface Extensions Services) service areas found in comprised within the protected area; and

closing the protected area when the processing in manipulating the one or more PARTIES service areas is complete completed.

14. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the using the interface to create a created trusted relationship comprises the steps of:

sending a public key to the system firmware;

modifying the public key using a private key using the system firmware;

causing the calling process to validate validating the modified key;

causing using the system firmware to issue a public key to the calling process;

modifying the public key using the private key using the calling process; and

~~causing using the system firmware to validate the new key ; and if the key is not validated, not granting access to the protected area; and if the key is validated, granting access to the protected area.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of the a retrieve directory request; and

~~allowing the calling process to locate the locating a desired service area using the an information returned by the retrieve directory request.~~

16. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of a retrieve directory request; and

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move moving a SETMAX boundary to allow access to the a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of allowing access to accessing the one or more service areas comprises the steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of an open service area with a password request; and

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move moving a SETMAX boundary to allow access to ~~the~~ a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of using the interface to create a created trusted relationship further comprises:

moving a SETMAX address from an initial boundary,
and further wherein the step of closing the protected area further comprises the step of: once the calling process has completed its activities in the protected area, returning the SETMAX address to its original the initial boundary using a close SETMAX command.